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R 170840Z APR 74 FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6759 INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CONFIDENTIAL JIDDA 1989

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: BEXP, SA

SUBJECT: NEW AIRPORT PLANNING

REF: STATE 75088

- 1. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS FROM CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE THAT BECHTEL HAS BEEN INVITED BY SAG CIVIL AVIATION TO SUBMIT PROPOSAL FOR RIYADH AIRPORT DESIGN CONTRACT. THIS INFORMATION SHOULD NOT YET BE RELEASED TO BUSINESS COMMUNITY, DUE TO CINFIDENTIALITY OF SOURCE AND OF CIVAVIATION NEGOTIATIONS. THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME PROSPECT THAT BECHTEL WILL BE INVITED ALSO TO CONSTRUCT AIRPORT ON BASIS OF A NEGOTIATED CONTRACT.
- 2. TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE CIVAVIATION NOT YET READY TO ACTIVELY PURSUE PLANS FOR DHAHRAN AIRPORT. WHILE THEY MAY BE ASSEMBLING FURTHER INFORMATION ON CONSULTING/ENGINEERING FIRMS AT THIS TIME, QUESTION WHETHER CIVAVIATION WILL FEEL ABLE TO DEVOTE MUCH SERIOUS ATTENTION TO DHAHRAN UNTIL JIDDA AND RIYADH PROJECTS ARE FURTHER DOWN THE LINE. AKINS

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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